

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 004093
ORIGIN HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 L-03 /028 R

DRAFTED BY DHEW/PHS/OASH/OIH/RDFISCHER:PAH

APPROVED BY OES/APT/BMP/WJWALSH, III.

EUR/SOV:SHUMPHREY

-----080529Z 111185 /13

R 072301Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 004093

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, UR

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF SOVIET EMIGREE PHYSICIANS TO
PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE U S

1. SCIATT MAY BE AWARE OF PAST TELEX CORRESPONDENCE
BETWEEN HEW AND MOH (SEE ESP. OIH 480 AND MOH 438) AND
BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL
GRADUATES (ECFMG), COMMUNITY ACTION FOR LEGAL SERVICES,
MOH AND AMEMB MOSCOW CONCERNING SOVIETS LAWS ABOUT THE
RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF SOVIET PHYSICIANS WITH DEGREE OF
VRACH AND SPECIALTY OF SANITARY HYGIENE. ALL CORRESPON-
DENCE HAS BEEN LOW KEY ALTHOUGH EMOTIONS BEHIND QUESTIONS
ARE GROWING AND IT APPEARS A COURT CASE WILL BE UNDER-
TAKEN BY 12 SOVIET EMIGREE PHYSICIANS AGAINST ECFMG. THE
FOLLOWING TEXT IS TO ADVISE EMBOFF OF APPARENT ISSUES IN
IMPENDING COURT CASE AND TO REQUEST SCIATT DISCUSS ISSUE
FURTHER WITH APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

2. IN SUMMARY, ECFMG IS PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WHOSE
CERTIFICATION IS PREREQUISITE FOR ANY FOREIGN MEDICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 004093

GRADUATE (FMG) TO TAKE LICENSING EXAMS GIVEN BY EACH OF OUR
50 STATES. ECFMG ADMINISTERS TEST OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE
COMPETENCY AND BASIC MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AFTER, REPEAT,
AFTER, THEY CERTIFY THAT (1) CANDIDATE HAS FOUR YEARS

TRAINING FROM A MEDICAL SCHOOL LISTED IN WHO DIRECTORY
AND (2) HAS UNRESTRICTED (ANY SPECIALTIES) LICENSE TO

PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THAT COUNTRY IF HE/SHE IS A CITIZEN.
IN PAST, ECFMG DID NOT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN 4 TYPES OF
SOVIET VRACH AND ADMINISTERED TESTS TO ANYONE WITH VRACH
DEGREE. FYI: SANITARY HYGIENE VRACH'S (SHV'S) DID
REASONABLE WELL ON MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS. END FYI. MORE
RECENTLY HOWEVER, ECFMG HAS 'DETERMINED' THAT SHV'S ARE
NOT REALLY TRAINED TO, NOR DO THEY RECEIVE A LICENSE IN
USSR TO PRACTICE CLINICAL MEDICINE. TWELVE SOVIET
EMIGREE SHV'S WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO TAKE QUALIFICATION
EXAMS AND HAVE BROUGHT COURT BA5 SUIT AGAINST ECFMG.
EMIGREE SHV'S CLAIM IS AS YET UNCLEAR BUT THEY WILL
PROBABLY PRESENT EVIDENCE THAT SHV'S CAN AND DO PRACTICE
MEDICINE IN USSR. ECFMG WILL PROBABLY PRESENT EVIDENCE
THAT SHV'S CAN ONLY PRACTICE CLINICAL MEDICINE IN SPECIAL
CASES E.G. NEEDY RURAL AREAS OR AFTER SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS
AND CERTIFICATION. BOTH SIDES HAVE U S EXPERTS IN
SOVIET HEALTH CARE WHO WILL SUPPORT THEIR CLAIMS.

3. HEW/OIH WISHES ONLY TO ASSURE THAT ALL RELEVANT
INFORMATION IS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF BOTH PARTIES
AND REQUESTS THAT SCIATT OR STAFF ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS
ISSUES PERSONALLY WITH APPROPRIATE MOH STAFF. EVERYONE
HAS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF SOVIET RESPONSES
TO ALL PREVIOUS INQUIRIES AS IT IS ASSUMED THAT USSR
AUTHORITIES DO NOT WANT TO BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO
EMIGREE PHYSICIANS. PREVIOUS RESPONSES HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE
OR EQUIVOCAL AND INDEED CONTRARY TO WHAT MANY U S EXPERTS
HAVE SEEN IN USSR E.G. JAN. 5, 1976 LETTER FROM EMBOFF
GROSS TO ECFMG STATES SHV'S MAY NOT PRACTICE CLINICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 004093

MEDICINE UNDER SOVIET LAW WHILE MOH 438 STATES THERE ARE
SOME CASES. THE 'WORK BOOKS' OF EMIGREES SEEM TO
INDICATE CLINICAL WORK RECORDS.

4. AT PRESENT BOTH SIDES APPEAR TO NEED CONCRETE
INFORMATION ABOUT HOW AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH
WHAT TYPE OF CERTIFICATION A SHV IS ALLOWED TO PRACTICE
CLINICAL MEDICINE IN THE USSR. THERE APPEARS NO QUESTIONS
THAT UNDER SOME CIRCUMSTANCES SHV'S DO PRACTICE CLINICAL
MEDICINE IN USSR. ECFMG IS NOW DISCRIMINATING BETWEEN

ACADEMIC VRACH DEGREE AND THE LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION
THAT THE STATE GIVES THE PRACTITIONER TO PRACTICE
MEDICINE. IN U S IT IS A TWO STAGE PROCESS AND THERE IS
GROWING UNDERSTANDING AT ECFMG THAT A SOMEWHAT
SIMILAR PROCESS OCCURS IN USSR WITH THE 'CENTRAL' OR
'STATE' EXAMINING OR CERTIFICATION COMMITTEES GIVING THE
LICENSE (SEE ESP. MOH TELEX 438). ECFMG POLICY REQUIRES
IT DEPENDS ON SOVIET LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND THEY NEED

CONCRETE EVIDENCE SUCH AS PAPER CERTIFICATES OR STAMPS OF APPROVAL AS EVIDENCE THAT A FMG CANDIDATE FOR ECFMG CERTIFICATION HAS LICENSE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY TO PRACTICE MEDICINE. WHAT IS THAT CONCRETE EVIDENCE THEY CAN LOOK FOR IN THE DOCUMENTATION THAT CAN BE PRESENTED BY EMIGREE VRACHS?

5. THE SOVIET EMIGREE SHV'S HAVE REQUESTED HEW/OIH TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON HOW MANY AND/OR WHAT PERCENTAGE OF SHV'S IN THE USSR DO IN FACT PRACTICE CLINICAL MEDICINE?

6. OTHER LESS CLEAR QUESTIONS COME FROM BOTH SIDES ABOUT WHETHER AND HOW THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF SHV'S. THERE IS MUCH TALK ABOUT CHANGES IN LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING SHV'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 004093

IN 1958 AND 1967. DO PERSONS WITH DEGREES OF SHV'S FROM DIFFERENT YEARS HAVE DIFFERENT LICENSES?

7. BOTH SIDES ARE AWARE THAT CURRICULUM FOR SHV'S DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THAT OF VRACHS IN PEDIATRICS AND GENERAL THERAPY, ESPECIALLY IN YEARS 6 AND 7. DOES THIS CURRICULUM DIFFERENCE SIGNIFY THAT THESE SHV'S ARE REALLY TRAINED FOR WORK IN PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY?

8. ALSO OF INTEREST IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HAVING ON THE DIPLOMA THE DESIGNATION OF VRACH AND THEN ONE OF FOUR OR FIVE SPECIALTY DESIGNATIONS SUCH AS PEDIATRICS, THERAPY, STOMATOLOGY, ETC. DOES THIS SPECIALTY DESIGNATION INDICATE THAT THESE VRACH'S ARE LIMITED OR ONLY LICENSED TO PRACTICE THAT SPECIALTY?

9. SCIATT OR EMBOFF REQUESTED ALSO TO OBTAIN AS MUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE SYSTEM OF CERTIFICATION OF PHYSICIANS TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN USSR RELEVANT TO QUESTION AT HAND. ESPECIALLY USEFUL WOULD BE COPIES OF ANY LAWS OR REGULATIONS WHICH SET FORTH THIS PROCESS (NOTE OIH 480).

10. FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION IN DISCUSSIONS SCIATT OR STAFF MAY WANT TO REMIND SOVIETS THAT ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS MAY HAVE BROADER IMPLICATIONS THAN HERETOFORE SEEN, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE PUBLICIZED IN TRIAL. FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIETS CATALOG SCHOOLS FOR SHV'S AS MEDICAL SCHOOL IN WHO DIRECTORY AND INCLUDE SHV'S AS PHYSICIANS IN THIS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS. IF THE ROLE OF SHV'S IS

IN FACT NARROWLY DEFINED BY SOVIETS AT THIS TIME, IT MAY
HAVE BEARING ON U S AND WORLD INTERPRETATION OF NUMBER OF

USSR MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND PHYSICIANS. ALSO, SOVIETS TRAIN
FOREIGN NATIONALS AS SHV'S AND DETAIL THEIR SHV'S TO LESS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 004093

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER
RAMIFICATIONS OF ANY ILL MOTIVATED STATEMENTS THEY MAY
NOW MAKE RE THE PLAINT OF SEVERAL EMIGREE SHV'S. EMBASSY
IS REMINDED ALSO THAT U S LAWS CONCERNING U S TESTING AND
USE OF FMG'S ARE BEING REVISED AND SOVIETS MUST BE
COGNIZANT THAT ANSWERS TO ABOVE QUESTIONS MAY HAVE
RELEVANCE FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF SOVIET VRACHS IN
FUTURE EXCHANGE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS IN U S. HEW/OIH
WOULD SUGGEST THAT SCIATT OR EMBOFF DISCUSS FULL BACK-
GROUND TO QUESTIONS AND IMPENDING COURT CASE ALTHOUGH WILL
RELY ON EMBASSY JUDGMENTS IN THIS MATTER.

KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, LICENSES, EMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE004093
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PAH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770008-0045
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770170/aaaacjcm.tel
Line Count: 193
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 018630dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HEW
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3641506
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERTIFICATION OF SOVIET EMIGREE PHYSICIANS TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE U S
TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/018630dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009